



Battle Rhythm

Published by the SDDC 595th Transportation Group

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Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, Honorable Thomas Hall visits the SPOD



Kuwait – Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, the Honorable Thomas Hall visited the 595th Transportation Group operations at the Seaport of Debarkation (SPOD) in Ash Shuaiba, Sunday. Secretary Hall met with some of the key players working at the port; Military Sealift Command and of course the reserve soldiers of the 1185th Transportation Terminal Brigade from Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Secretary Hall is a retired two-star Rear Admiral having served almost 34 years of continuous active duty in the United States Navy. He is a distinguished and decorated Naval Aviator, who served a combat tour in Vietnam. He performed in numerous high level staff, command, and NATO positions during his career. His Military awards include the Distinguished Service

■ *Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, Honorable Thomas Hall talks to reservists of the 1185th Transportation Terminal Brigade who are loading the USNS Red Cloud. From left to right: Staff Sgt. Todd R. Harner, Sgt. William J. Jenkins, Jr., Spec. Robin A. Welsh, Secretary Hall and Brig. Gen. William H. Johnson, commander, 143rd Transportation Command.*

Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Air Medal, and various other personal and unit decorations. He was awarded the Order of the Falcon, with Commander's Cross, by the President of Iceland in recognition of his accomplishments and service as Commander Iceland Defense Force.

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*Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs
Thomas Hall visits the SPOD (Continued from front-page)*

A number of different organizations, including Army soldiers, Navy sailors and DOD civilians, work under the umbrella of the 595th Transportation Group to accomplish the important mission of delivering cargo to the combatant commander. Since the start of OIF, the Group has executed over 1,000 ship operations moving more than 75,000,000 pieces of military cargo.

The 595th Transportation Group is one of four groups of the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC).

Bram de Jong, 595th Trans Gp PAO



■ Secretary Hall, visited the 595th Trans Gp stow planners. Transporters have to call forward material to the port, and ships have to be loaded efficiently. To do this stow planners work with the latest ship loading software to develop a plan that max-mizes the ship-load. In transit visibility is provided to cargo by data systems which track all cargo going on or off a ship. From left to right: Sgt. Melissa D. Cunningham, 1185th Trans Tml Bde, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Honorable Thomas Hall and Steve O'Driscoll-Packer, ICODES contractor from Cal Pol (Caifornia Poly-Technical University).



■ The group of visitors also visited the USNS Red Cloud



The Commander sends:

Once again I want to thank each and every one of you for all the hard work that you are doing. I continue to be impressed by your professionalism and sense of duty and I know that all those whom you support share my sentiments. Standing on the pier the other evening in a driving rain storm watching the night shift carry-on with smiles and a sense of purpose with no one watching over them except themselves was a testament to your professionalism and sense of purpose. The fact is no one knew I was anywhere around, yet everyone was moving out as if the whole world were watching them perform. It is moments like these, ones which are captured by none and appreciated by only the few who remain awake in the wee hours of the morning, that separate the good units from the great ones. I have seen similar scenes in Iraq and Afghanistan where our soldier's perform every day under trying conditions without fanfare and an eye only toward completing the mission.

The point I want to make is that I notice, and the warfighter notices, that you are professionals in every sense of the word. I wish I could reach out and shake the hand of every soldier for a job well done each and every day. Though that is not possible I want each of you to know how proud I am to be your commander. Keep up the great work and know that you are setting a standard for excellence others who follow will aspire to achieve. My thoughts and prayers are with you....."Move the Force"

*Col. Gary R. Stanley,
Commander 595th Trans Gp*



The surge continues this week. Battalions and Sections complete one vessel and immediately begin working the next as fast as it can be brought pier side. 2nd Bn is working the USNS Red Cloud, or "Black Cloud", because of its painful history with this unit. 3rd Bn made quick work of the Cape Knox download and is working through the upload now. 1st BN continues to provide great support to simultaneous vessel operations as they beg, borrow and appropriate every shackle and chain they can find to ensure equipment gets loaded that has shown up pier side "not to standard". Since January 25th the 595th Trans Group loaded and/or discharged 35 ships. The 1185th handled 25 of these vessels moving 18,000 pieces of equipment. This equipment, or cargo handled amounts to 3,051,361 square feet. Welcome back to 2nd Bn's lead Vessel OIC Maj. Rivera! Recognition goes out to Spec. Nieves and Spec. Macintosh for taking charge of weather deck ops for 3rd Bn and doing an excellent job. Staff Sgt. Charles and Sgt. 1st Class Finks continue to keep the pier side call forward area loaded with equipment while searching and finding "misplaced" equipment on other piers. Spec. Kresge has been enforcing the no NTV pier side rule aggressively while keeping operations safe. And far from least, ICO-DES Sgt. 1st Class Frey can be seen daily walking the vessels ensuring that stow plans are not viewed as a suggestion, but rather a plan to be followed. Some soldiers have approached me regarding signing up for SDDC Individual Mobilization Asset/Assignment tours. If you are interested you should submit a bio to thomasdenise@sddc.army.mil who works in SDDC Operations Center and see what they have to offer. Assignments are available worldwide for either short or long tours as well as drilling status. For consideration for an IMA position with the 598th, based out of Rotterdam, NL, send to stacy.ruble@us.army.mil

Maj. Scott Linton
595th Plans and Operations Officer

A life examined

There is a true story about a guard in a royal garden. It seems that in one particular place in that royal garden stood a guard. This tradition had continued for many years. One day a member of the royal family actually asked the question of "why was there always a guard posted there?" At first nobody knew but after some research the answer was discovered. It seems that a century earlier the queen had a favorite flower in bloom and did not want it picked until she had fully enjoyed it in the garden. To make sure it was not picked she posted a guard near that plant. Because it was an order, it was carried on way past the intent of the queen and passed into a royal tradition. I wonder how many of our traditions are like that.

Its pretty automatic that a hearty "bless you" or "gesundheit" is said after someone sneezes, but that tradition is based on a faulty premise that a sneeze precludes entry of an evil spirit that brings ill health. Centuries ago it meant something but now it has become a habit without purpose except as a gesture of politeness.

There are a lot of things in our lives that we assume have a purpose yet upon examination that purpose may not actually still hold true. We do a lot of things in our lives that we really may not have examined first. Perhaps there are some habits you have that (when you think about it) you are not quite sure how they got started. I believe that a habit unexamined is nothing more than a rut. Things done over and over without reflection and renewal are things done with empty meaning. Some people find themselves simply going through the motions. That's what a rut is. Someone once said that the only difference between a rut and a grave is its depth. I have a lot of traditions as part of my faith and many of those traditions are quite old. Yet I also examine them often to see if they still have meaning and purpose for my life.

As we reach the end of a religious season (Christian, Jewish or Muslim) we need to ask ourselves what does this time of year mean in my life?" For I believe that a life unexamined is a life that has less meaning. Even good habits need reexamination every now and then. If it's truly a good habit then continue with it, if not...well, find another one. So I invite you this season and all seasons to reexamine your life. Does your life reflect healthy habits and traditions? If not take some time and look and see what sorts of things reflect who you are and what you hold dear. After you have done that then you can begin anew.

Chaplain Patrick R. Appleget

Next Week in Battle Rhythm: DSE7, CME and KBR!

Good Afternoon & Good Evening
Masaa al-khair *Masaa an-noor*
(Greeting) (Reply)

Photo Coverage: The picture on Page 5 (top) was taken by Col. Langan, commander, 1285th Trans Tml Bde. All other pictures were made by the Editor

Pictures at the SPOD



■ Sgt. 1st Class Eddy Cousin, Assistant COR for the 595th Trans Gp.



■ Master Sgt. Ron Fox, Terminal NCO of the 1185th Trans Tml Bde, in front of the USNS Red Cloud.



■ Tom Brown, Senior Battle Captain of the 595th Trans Gp.



■ Maj. Kathleen A. McGowan, 1185th Trans tml Bde, vessel Chief, coordinates with Staff Sgt. Ruth Zerbe, 1185th Trans Bde, vessel NCO on board the USNS Benevidez.

Total reconstruction of the Showers & Latrine trailers



■ Thanks to the employees of Raith and CTS who have been instrumental in building our new facilities. "Your dedication and work ethic have made the transition process for the 598th and 1185th successful. From left to right: Rajesh G. Shetty, Bernardino Gamayo, Sajjad Ali Shah, Abdul Karim Malik, Maj. Martin F. Volkman, Ayyaz Mehmood, Ifthar Ahmad, Shajo Kunchu, Abdul Rahim Abid Nabi, Mohammad Mansoor Ali, Shyam Dhumala and Ganganna Poojari."
Maj. Martin F. Volkman, 595th Trans Gp COR

Transloading Containers in Shuwaikh, Kuwait

Kuwait Detachment in Action!

The 831st Trans. Bn., Kuwait Detachment is situated west of Kuwait City at the Port of Shuwaikh. The commander of this detachment is Captain Kristin Aberg.

“The main reason for our presence in Shuwaikh is to facilitate the processing of all military commercial cargo for onward movement,” says Aberg.

“We take care of the customs clearance, we maintain data bases with documentation information and we transload containers. Normally, everything works smoothly. The cargo arrives and gets processed and delivered. Additionally, we currently transload cargo from containers routed thru the Theater Distribution Center (TDC). All other cargo is delivered door to door to our customers such as AAFES, DLA and PWC (Public Warehousing Company).

Aberg continues: “Our carriers are APL, P&O Nedlloyd, Maersk and Lykes lines. Their vessels deliver the containers pier-side. The containers are moved to the container staging yard, tallied and scanned. In the meantime, we finish the customs paperwork and send out delivery notifications. Our goal is to deliver cargo within ten days.”

Starting on 20 January 2005, the Kuwait Detachment began transloading the commercial carrier owned 20 foot containers with the assistance of contracted civilians. We transfer this cargo into government owned or leased containers. This process is necessary to reduce the amount of detention being paid in the CENTCOM AOR. Shuwaikh is the best location to do this transloading, as it is the largest container port in the AOR.”

“Another new endeavor at Shuwaikh is to check the Radio Frequency (RF) tags on the arriving containers. We check whether the tags are present, have working batteries, and verify content data. We correct the data if needed. We also burn new tags if the containers arrive without them.”

“We receive about 2,500 containers monthly. The number of import containers is still growing. We can transload up to 100 containers per day.”

Bram de Jong, 595th Trans Gp PAO



Pictures from top to bottom; ■ Sgt Josh Ericson, 639th Trans (detailed from Shuaiba) and Capt. Kristin Aberg, commander Kuwait Detachment. ■ Lance Joe Jacob, World wide Port System expert ■ Staff Sgt. Mike Reuter, 1185th Trans Tml Bde, also from Shuaiba and Celine Mascarenhas, Radio Frequency Identification expert ■ Marlon Devera, documentation expert and Jobi Jacob, Raith accountant..





In the Spotlight.....

Spec. Federico J. Morales

Specialist Federico J. Morales, 45, 483rd Trans Bn, Vallejo, CA was born and raised in San Francisco. When not in uniform he is a Sous-Chef at the Stanford Court, a 4-star hotel in San Francisco.

"At this hotel, I prepare the daily dinner menu for the evening and I prepare the soups and the sauces for the dinner and the banquets," says Morales when I visited him at the 595th Dining Facility at the Shuaiba Port.

He is well appreciated person at the SPOD because as NCOIC of the DFAC he is responsible for the catered meals which are provided to about 200 Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Civilians on a daily basis. "It is my job to keep this DFAC up to high military standards and to keep everybody happy."

In San Francisco, Morales attended City College and finished the Hotel-Restaurant Management Course. His whole career has involved cooking. "My big example is my Dad who was an Army cook at Ft. Lewis, Washington, during World War II."

Right after High School, Morales enlisted and served as an Army Cook for four years. He enjoyed it, got out and became a reservist.

"After 9-11, I reenlisted and deployed to Kuwait in October 2004. My unit supported ship operations and during a rotation of personnel this job at the 595th came available. Thanks to Command Sergeant Major Hannah, who helped me to get this job."

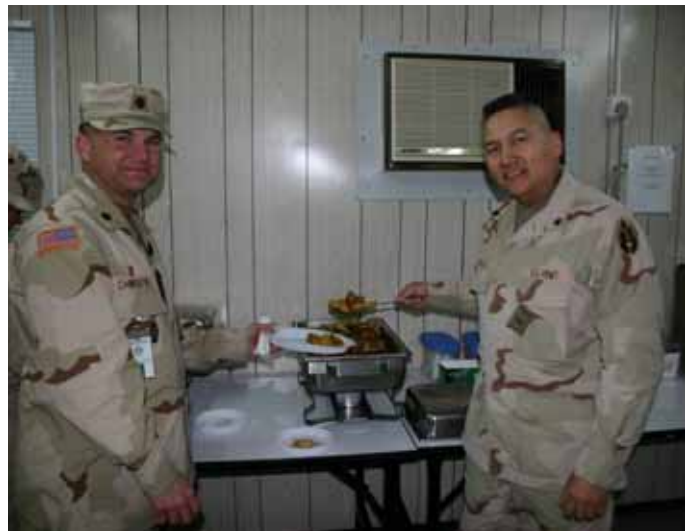
Do you have hobbies?

"I collect vintage cars. At this moment I am repairing a Chevrolet Camaro from 1969. I will turn this car into showroom condition."

Finally;

"I am really glad that I reenlisted. I enjoy working in Kuwait. Although I don't see any fighting, I praise those who are fighting!"

Bram de Jong, 595th Trans Gp, PAO/Editor



■ *Spec. Federico J. Morales, serves Maj. Walter J. Chwastyk, 595th Trans Gp, S4, the best chicken breasts in town!*

"We are glad to have Chief Cook Morales supporting the 595th Trans Gp. He is an asset to our organization. Without him, the DFAC wouldn't be able to operate," says Chwastyk.